



SC Annual School District Report Card Summary

Darlington School District

Grades: PK-12

Enrollment: 11,227

Superintendent: Dr. Rainey H. Knight

Board Chair: Dr. Allem McCutcheon

PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and www.eoc.sc.gov as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD/SILVER AWARD	AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
2008	Below Average	Excellent	N/A	Not Met	CA
2007	Below Average	Below Average	N/A	Not Met	CA
2006	Below Average	At-Risk	N/A	Not Met	CDI

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF DISTRICTS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	0	4	17	1

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 02/17/2009. Districts with Students like Ours are Districts with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

PACT

PACT	2008 Reading % Basic and above	2008 Math % Basic and above	2008 Science % Basic and above	2008 Social Studies % Basic and above
District	66.1%	69.7%	59.6%	67.0%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	69.6%	69.8%	60.3%	64.3%
Average District	76.0%	76.0%	67.4%	71.3%

PACT	2008 Reading % Proficient & Advanced	2008 Math % Proficient & Advanced	2008 Science % Proficient & Advanced	2008 Social Studies % Proficient & Advanced
District	25.9%	26.6%	29.2%	28.0%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	29.2%	27.0%	28.1%	26.8%
Average District	37.6%	35.1%	36.4%	34.7%

HSAP

HSAP: 2nd Year Students	Passed 2 Subtests (%)	Passed 1 Subtests (%)	Passed No Subtests (%)
District	78.3%	10.8%	10.8%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	76.7%	12.0%	11.3%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2008 (%)

District	95.6%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	92.5%

End of Course Test Passage Rate (%)

District	52.4%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	58.6%

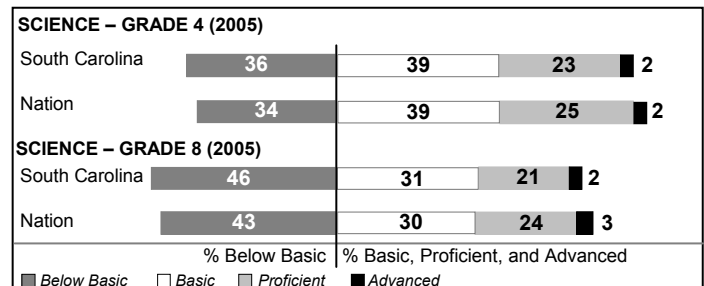
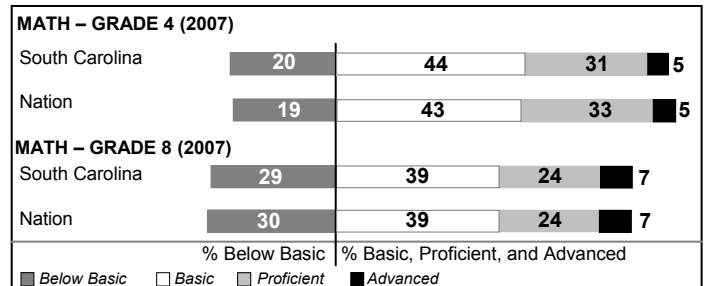
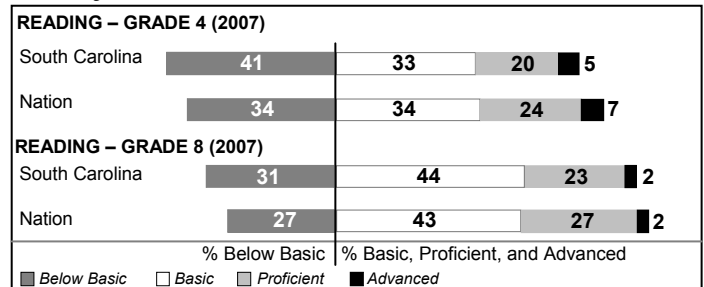
On-Time Graduation Rate (%)

District	82.0%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	77.2%

** Districts with Students Like Ours are districts with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

NAEP*

* Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.



SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

2010 Goal:

By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

2020 Goal: TBD

Abbreviations Key

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined
NI Newly Identified CDI Continuing District Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY District Improvement Status HOLD District Improvement Status

Darlington School District

DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n=11,227)				
Retention rate	5.7%	Down from 6.8%	4.1%	4.0%
Attendance rate	95.3%	Up from 95.1%	95.3%	95.6%
Eligible for gifted and talented	10.1%	Down from 10.7%	9.9%	11.4%
With disabilities other than speech	12.9%	Down from 13.3%	11.3%	10.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.9%	Down from 1.3%	0.9%	0.8%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	10.3%	Up from 9.0%	8.3%	10.3%
Successful on AP/IB exams	59.0%	N/A	45.9%	56.0%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	28.9%	Down from 29.3%	29.8%	31.1%
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	173	Down from 181	24	48
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	89	Down from 94	17	27
Annual dropout rate	2.7%	Up from 1.7%	2.9%	3.8%
Teachers (n=764)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	51.2%	Up from 50.2%	53.7%	54.8%
Continuing contract teachers	74.7%	Down from 75.7%	75.0%	73.9%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	7.7%	Up from 6.8%	5.6%	5.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	87.7%	Down from 88.0%	87.9%	88.8%
Teacher attendance rate	95.6%	Up from 94.2%	94.8%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	\$46,152	Up 6.3%	\$44,529	\$45,107
Vacancies for more than nine weeks	2.2%	Down from 4.3%	1.0%	0.5%
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	4.4%	Down from 5.7%	3.3%	2.5%
District				
Superintendent's years at district	9.0	Up from 8.0	4.5	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20.3 to 1	Down from 21.3 to 1	20.0 to 1	20.2 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.8%	Up from 86.6%	88.6%	89.1%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$8,666	Up 5.7%	\$8,429	\$8,666
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	51.9%	Down from 53.7%	52.8%	53.1%
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	56.5%	Down from 56.8%	56.6%	56.5%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Number of schools	23	No Change	8	9
Portable classrooms	4.3%	Down from 4.5%	2.3%	4.3%
Average age in years of school facilities	33 Years	Down from 34 Years	28 Years	26 Years
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	22.0	No Change	7.0	8.0
Average administrator salary	\$78,959	Up 2.3%	\$76,833	\$76,032
Number of charter schools	1	No Change	0	0
% of AYP objectives met	72.4%		67.4%	69.7%

* Prior year audited financial data available.

CHARTER SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT

School Name	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
Choices (HIGH)	N/A	N/A	Not Met
Choices (MIDDLE)	At-Risk	At-Risk	Not Met

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Darlington County School District serves over 11,000 students in 23 schools, including a state-of-the-art career and technology center and an alternative school. All schools are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Our District believes in providing a challenging educational experience for all children. In addition to our regular classes, Darlington County School District offers art magnet programs and science magnet programs for elementary and middle schools. In addition, three high schools offer magnet programs for students who wish to pursue a more academically challenging course of study; these programs include International Baccalaureate/Honors College, Math, Science & Technology, and Early College.

We firmly believe that exceptional educators are the key to a student's success. The District supports a comprehensive program of professional development for all school personnel and administrators. Among the many professional development opportunities, the District provides support and guidance for teachers who wish to pursue National Board Certification. The District also offers several degree programs through partnerships with local colleges and universities.

Darlington County School District is committed to providing cutting-edge technology in the classroom. Through our comprehensive technology plan, all core curriculum teachers have been given laptop computers to assist in their classroom management and teaching. All schools are wired for the Internet, with some featuring wireless laptop computer labs, computer-based programs to evaluate and differentiate instruction, or online credit-recovery tools for our students. In response to teacher demand and student feedback, an increasing number of schools have interactive whiteboards in the classrooms.

The District's "Pathways to Success" program is a comprehensive K-12 initiative designed to promote career awareness, exploration, and preparation. Students are exposed to career opportunities while exploring their own interests, goals, and talents. The program connects businesses and schools, helping to ensure that South Carolina has a high quality workforce and a prosperous economy.

We are proud of our many successes of this year. Twenty-two students were recognized as Junior Scholars. Four district schools earned Palmetto Gold and Palmetto Silver awards, which recognize high levels of academic achievement and high rates of student academic improvement. Seventy-three district teachers have now earned National Board Certification. Seven out of ten high school students passed both sections of the state's exit exam on their first attempt in 2007. Darlington County School District's 2008 graduating seniors set a new scholarship record by earning \$15,429,507 in scholarships!

Dr. Rainey Knight
Superintendent

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